

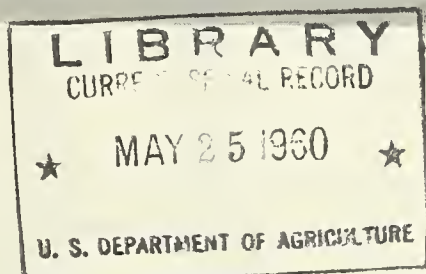
## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



## WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS CONTINUE UPWARD

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS  
FLM 3-60  
May 12, 1960

World cattle numbers (including water buffalo) continued upward moderately in 1959, and exceeded 1 billion head for the first time. This is 2 percent above 1959 and 10 percent above the 1951-55 average.

During 1959 numbers rose in nearly all major areas. There was a 5 percent increase in both the U.S.S.R. and North America, 3 percent in South America, 2 percent in Europe and 1 percent in Asia. But numbers declined 3 percent in Oceania, with nearly all of the decrease in Australia, and 1 percent in Africa.

CATTLE: Estimated world total by continent or area,  
average 1951-55, annual 1957-60

Continent						Change	
	Average					1960	1960
	1951-55	1957	1958	1959	1960 <sup>1/</sup>	1951-55	1959
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North America....	129,740	137,710	136,900	140,850	147,770	+14	+5
South America....	139,380	151,980	153,160	154,250	158,290	+14	+3
Europe:							
West.....	73,430	75,890	76,590	78,180	80,070	+9	+2
East.....	29,650	29,930	29,450	30,140	30,630	+3	+2
Total.....	103,080	105,820	106,040	108,320	110,700	+7	+2
U.S.S.R.....	57,005	61,400	66,800	70,840	74,100	+30	+5
Africa.....	103,435	115,070	115,075	113,790	113,255	+9	-1
Asia.....	363,305	377,390	376,815	379,730	381,710	+5	+1
Oceania.....	21,080	23,330	23,040	22,460	21,840	+4	-3
Total World.....	917,025	972,700	977,830	990,240	1007,665	+10	+2

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

This Circular contains more detailed information than the world summary of similar title published in the monthly supplement issue of Foreign Crops and Markets of April 28, 1960.

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1957-60

Country	Month of estimate	Average 1951-55	1957	1958	1959 2/	1960 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>North America:</b>						
Canada (Excluding Newfoundland).....	Dec. 1 1/	8,673	10,379	10,293	10,112	10,489
Mexico.....	Spring	17,200	18,700	18,900	19,400	21,000
United States (Continental).....	Jan. 1	91,333	94,502	93,350	96,650	101,520
Hawaii.....	Dec. 31 1/	160	169	174	175	—
Puerto Rico.....	Jan.	382	408	403	412	—
Total Canada, Mexico, U.S., and Possessions 3/		117,790	124,200	123,160	126,790	133,640
Costa Rica.....	Spring	705	949	977	1,002	—
El Salvador.....	Oct. 1/	794	917	778	800	—
Guatemala.....	April	1,133	1,049	1,113	1,142	—
Honduras.....	August	1,153	1,121	1,121	—	—
Nicaragua.....		1,213	1,331	1,370	1,425	1,496
Panama 4/.....	Aug.	573	622	638	661	—
Total Central America 3/		5,590	6,010	6,020	6,170	6,320
Cuba.....	Dec. 1/	4,408	5,500	5,700	5,850	5,750
Dominican Republic.....	July	885	930	—	—	—
Total Caribbean 3/.....		6,360	7,500	7,720	7,890	7,810
Total North America 3/..		129,740	137,710	136,900	140,850	147,770
<b>South America:</b>						
Argentina.....	June 30	42,338	43,980	41,355	40,000	41,000
Bolivia.....	Jan.	5/2,260	—	—	—	—
Brazil.....	Dec. 31 1/	56,071	66,695	69,548	71,420	—
Chile.....	Jan. 1	2,630	2,910	2,920	2,930	2,930
Colombia.....	Oct. 1 1/	12,944	13,390	14,400	14,840	15,100
Ecuador.....		1,377	1,363	—	—	—
Paraguay.....		4,099	3,929	—	—	—
Peru.....	Dec. 31 1/	3,331	3,380	3,225	3,177	—
Uruguay.....	May	7,797	7,200	7,430	7,502	7,506
Venezuela.....		6,313	6,647	6,500	—	—
Total South America 3/..		139,380	151,980	153,160	154,250	158,290
<b>Europe:</b>						
Austria.....	Dec. 3 1/	2,303	2,325	2,297	2,279	2,306
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	Jan.	2,284	2,618	2,543	2,607	—
Denmark 6/.....	Dec. 31 1/	2,989	3,113	3,151	3,224	3,313
Finland.....	June 15	1,852	1,839	1,845	1,936	—
France.....	Oct. 1/	16,506	17,792	17,928	18,404	18,671
Germany, West 7/.....	Dec. 3 1/	11,545	11,895	12,014	12,132	12,465
Greece 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	942	1,081	1,103	1,113	1,125
Ireland.....	Jan. 1	3,925	4,022	3,969	4,053	4,250
Italy 8/.....	Jan.	8,711	8,476	8,649	8,992	9,200
Netherlands.....	Dec. 1/	2,733	2,785	2,873	3,015	3,164
Norway.....	Dec. 1/	1,127	1,060	1,068	1,060	1,057
Portugal.....	Dec. 15 1/	1,050	—	—	—	—
Spain.....	May 31	2,888	2,736	2,734	2,690	—
Sweden.....	June 1	2,557	2,426	2,543	2,580	—
Switzerland.....	April	1,620	1,645	1,664	1,687	1,725
United Kingdom.....	Dec. 1 1/	10,132	10,711	10,819	11,005	11,489
Total West Europe 3/....		73,430	75,890	76,590	78,180	80,070
Albania 8/.....		411	414	—	—	—
Bulgaria 8/.....	Jan.	1,896	1,772	1,668	1,572	1,458
Czechoslovakia.....	Jan. 1	4,249	4,134	4,091	4,183	4,297
Germany, East.....	Dec. 3 1/	3,790	3,719	3,744	4,145	—
Hungary.....	March	2,108	1,973	1,937	2,004	—
Poland.....	June 30	7,488	8,265	8,210	8,347	—
Rumania 8/.....	Jan.	4,647	—	4,470	4,394	4,550
Yugoslavia 8/.....	Jan. 15	5,061	5,014	4,922	5,089	5,360
Total East Europe 3/....		29,650	29,930	29,450	30,140	30,630
Total Europe 3/.....		103,080	105,820	106,040	108,320	110,700
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)....	Jan. 1	57,005	61,400	66,800	70,840	74,100

(Continued)



CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1957-60--(Continued)

Country	Month of estimate	Average 1951-55	1957	1958	1959 2/	1960 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>Africa:</b>						
Algeria 9/.....	Nov. 20 1/	835	840	826	645	—
Egypt 8/.....	Jan. 1	2,685	—	2,785	2,819	2,855
Ethiopia and Eritrea.....		20,830	22,500	21,800	20,000	—
Sudan.....	Dec. 1 1/	4,457	6,900	6,900	—	6,907
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	448	491	544	563	—
Total North Africa 3/.....		34,255	38,905	38,325	36,475	36,005
Angola.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,237	1,214	1,176	1,217	1,250
Basutoland.....		404	382	363	—	—
Bechuanaland.....		1,087	1,310	1,314	—	—
Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi	Dec. 31 1/	1,710	1,862	1,963	2,014	—
Cameroun.....	Dec. 1/	1,240	1,280	1,290	1,295	1,300
French Equatorial Africa.....		4,152	4,399	4,412	—	—
French West Africa 10/.....		7,796	—	—	—	—
Ghana.....		790	870	—	960	—
Kenya.....	Dec. 1/	6,806	7,357	7,417	—	—
Malgache.....	Dec. 1/	5,960	6,322	6,333	6,352	—
Mozambique.....		783	842	890	953	—
Nigeria and British Cameroons.		9,667	11,000	—	—	—
Rhodesia and Nyasaland 11/.....	Dec. 31 1/	4,202	4,630	4,790	5,007	—
Swaziland.....		421	463	—	—	—
Tanganyika.....	Dec. 1/	6,393	7,000	7,060	7,011	—
Uganda 12/.....		2,738	3,232	3,308	3,427	—
Union of South Africa.....	Aug. 31	11,700	12,000	—	12,000	—
Total South Africa 3/.....		69,180	76,165	76,750	77,315	77,250
Total Africa 3/.....		103,435	115,070	115,075	113,790	113,255
<b>Asia:</b>						
Iran 8/.....	March	4,654	5,395	5,500	5,455	5,600
Iraq 8/ 13/.....		2,177	2,181	1,816	—	—
Syria 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	459	491	512	498	—
Turkey (Europe and Asia).....	Nov. 1/	11,577	12,621	13,186	13,646	13,479
Total South-West Asia 3/.....		19,575	21,495	21,805	22,230	22,210
China Mainland 8/ 14/ 15/.....	Dec. 1/	59,700	65,200	64,100	65,900	—
Total East Central Asia 3/.....		61,500	67,000	65,900	67,700	68,800
Burma 8/.....	March	5,935	6,181	6,180	6,337	—
Cambodia 8/.....	Dec. 1/	1,291	1,301	—	—	—
Ceylon 8/ 9/.....		1,918	2,150	—	—	—
China, Taiwan 8/.....	Dec. 1/	384	414	423	419	—
India 8/ 16/.....	May	200,392	—	—	—	—
Indonesia 8/.....		7,576	8,018	—	—	—
Japan.....	Feb. 1	2,782	3,177	3,121	3,118	3,161
Korea, South.....	Dec.	616	917	967	1,001	—
Laos 8/.....	Jan. 1	310	425	500	—	—
Malaya 8/.....		510	538	546	568	—
Pakistan 8/.....		37,439	—	—	—	—
Philippines 8/ 17/.....	March	3,467	4,467	4,492	4,706	—
Thailand 8/.....	Mar. 31	11,025	10,921	10,475	10,303	—
Vietnam 8/.....	Dec. 1/	826	1,000	1,232	1,475	1,396
Total South and East Asia 3/.....		282,230	288,895	289,110	289,800	290,700
Total Asia 3/.....		363,305	377,390	376,815	379,730	381,710
<b>Oceania:</b>						
Australia.....	Mar. 31	15,361	17,257	16,892	16,279	15,500
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	5,468	5,809	5,886	5,921	6,080
Total Oceania 3/.....		21,080	23,330	23,040	22,460	21,840
<b>TOTAL WORLD 3/.....</b>		<b>917,025</b>	<b>972,700</b>	<b>977,830</b>	<b>990,240</b>	<b>1,007,665</b>

1/ Census or estimate for year shown except that end of year (October-December) is included under following year for comparison and totals. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 4/ Adjusted to include Bocas del Toro and Darien. 5/ Less than 5 years. 6/ Includes Faroe Islands and Greenland. 7/ Includes West Berlin and Saarland. 8/ Includes buffaloes. 9/ Number taxed only. 10/ Includes Guinea which became independent October 1958. 11/ European-owned stock 9/30; other 12/31. 12/ On African farms. 13/ Agricultural holdings only. Non-nomadic. 14/ Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang, and Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 15/ June is month of estimate for 1951-55 average. 16/ Census May 1951 through August 1952. 1956 March and April. 17/ January is month of estimate for 1951-55 average.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States agricultural attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information.  
April 28, 1960.

Numbers now are 30 percent above the 1951-55 average in the U.S.S.R. reflecting increased feed production, better use of available pastures and rangelands and special government encouragement. Greater numbers in North and South America (both 14 percent above the 1951-55 average) are due to greatly increased domestic purchasing power and profitable returns from cattle.

Relatively high beef prices have continued to expand numbers in Central America, the Caribbean, and in the northern sections of South America. Numbers in Argentina have fluctuated cyclically and are now increasing, but the basic rise since 1951-55 has been in other countries in South America. Unusually strong demand for beef has pushed numbers in North America to record levels.

Cattle numbers in Western Europe are 9 percent above average. Greatly increased living standards have encouraged beef production but output has not expanded as fast as in the Western Hemisphere where there is less competition for land from other agricultural enterprises. More cattle can be maintained in Western Europe, principally by the use of greater amounts of commercial fertilizers on pastures and hay lands and this trend is expected to continue with economic prosperity. A large proportion of the cattle in Europe are milk or dual-purpose types, used for both meat and milk, but more emphasis is being placed on beef breeds. Strong European demand for beef has helped to encourage cattle raising in South America.

Many of the cattle of the U.S.S.R. are more or less dual-purpose types. In former years large numbers were also used as draft animals. Recent encouragement by the government has been aimed at production of breeds for milk and breeds for beef. The use of oxen has declined materially.

Numbers in Eastern Europe (excluding the U.S.S.R.) are only 3 percent above the 1951-55 average. Under the government-managed economies of most countries, hog production has generally been encouraged at the expense of cattle or sheep. Also, emphasis has centered on production of milk rather than beef.

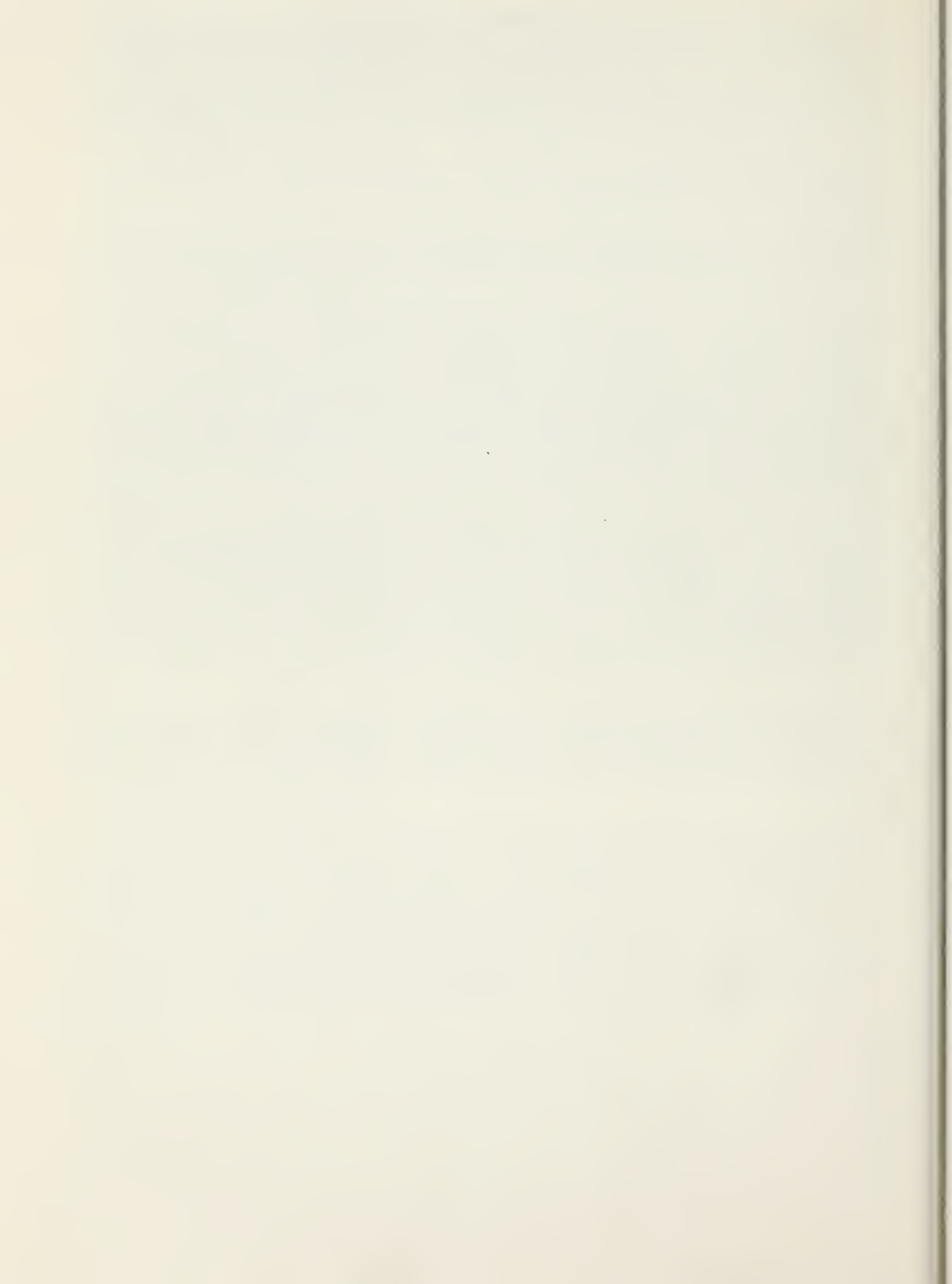
African cattle numbers have been increasing moderately and are now 9 percent above the 1951-55 average. Africa has a large potential for further increases in numbers and beef production. More and more cattle are being sold for slaughter rather than being held as evidences of wealth. The growth of commercialization in cattle has encouraged greater productivity per cow through better management practices. This has led to the development of meat packing concerns and commercial trading opportunities in some of the least developed countries.



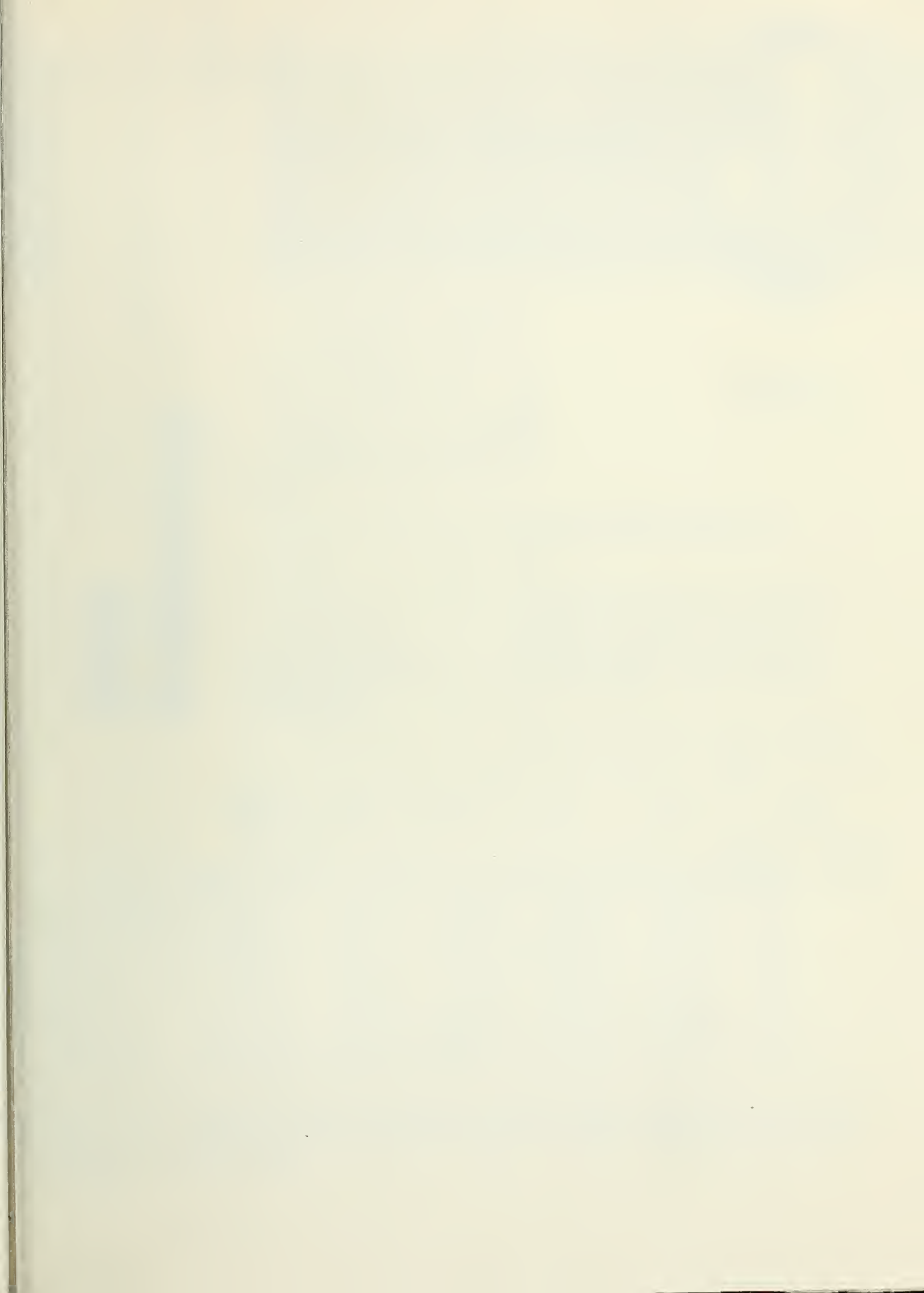
Asia's bovine numbers have continued to increase slowly. Numbers now are 5 percent above the average. This area includes India and Communist China and has nearly two fifths of the world's cattle. Numbers in India apparently have increased each year although there has been no recent census. Numbers in Communist China continue to increase but at a fairly moderate rate. Most cattle and buffalo in Asia are used for draft purposes and to produce milk. Slaughter for meat is less significant. Religious custom in India largely prevents slaughter of cattle or buffalo for meat.

Numbers in Oceania are only 4 percent above the 1951-55 average. Australia's cattle reached an alltime high of 17.3 million in 1957 and have decreased each year since as a result of large slaughter. However, smaller Australian slaughter this year indicates that cattle numbers may rise. Pastures and grazing conditions are generally good in Queensland, the largest cattle-producing state. A fairly large increase in cattle numbers in Australia is probable during the next several years unless there is drought in the principal cattle growing sections. Sheep production will continue to be a strong competitor to cattle in the main sheep growing sections of the country but pasture improvement will make it possible to increase cattle numbers on sheep farms as well.

Numbers in New Zealand continue to rise to new high levels and are expected to continue to increase moderately. New Zealand could increase cattle numbers materially in the future but sheep and wool production generally continues to be a more profitable enterprise for most farmers.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

                      
Official Business

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE